

CONGRATULATING THE BAYSIDE ACADEMY VOLLEYBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE 2007 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the Bayside Academy volleyball team on winning the 2007 2A State Volleyball Championship.

Coach Ann Schilling along with Assistant Coach Brenda Allen led the Bayside Academy varsity volleyball team to the state championship earlier this month, making it the first team in Alabama history to win six consecutive titles. Incredibly, Bayside Academy has won nine of the last 10 state championships in 2A and 16 titles overall.

Founded in 1970 by Baldwin County families, Bayside has an enrollment of 730 students in grades pre-kindergarten through 12 and ranks as one of the state's premier independent schools.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Bayside Academy Volleyball Team on a great season and state championship. This school deserves public recognition for this great honor, and I extend my congratulations to each member of the team and coaching staff.

BAYSIDE ACADEMY'S 2007 VOLLEYBALL TEAM ROSTER

Names: Maggie Niemeyer; Shelby Bulta; Lizzie Williams; Reynolds Pittman; Emily Allen; Taylor Givens; Gigi Eyre; Caroline Todd; Sarah Mosteller; Lauren Reibe; Patricia Sirmon; Savannah Simmons.

Coaching Staff: Head Coach Ann Schilling; Assistant Coach Brenda Allen.

RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE MONTH

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to acknowledge National American Indian Heritage Month and to call attention to the dire situation that many of our Native American brothers and sisters continue to live in today. In the world's richest nation on earth, many Native American people struggle to obtain the most basic of services made available to the rest of the nation, effectively threatening the health and well-being of future generations. For this reason, I continually support legislation that strengthens the self-determination of Native American people living both on and off Indian reservations.

According to the National Congress of American Indians and the National Indian Health Board, the Native American infant mortality rate is 150 percent greater than that of Caucasian infants, suicide among Native Americans is 2½ times higher than the national average, Native Americans are 2.6 times more likely to be diagnosed with diabetes, and the life expectancy rate for Native Americans is 5 years less than the rest of the U.S. population. There is an urgent need for sufficient and effective healthcare for Native American people and yet the President has

proposed zeroing out Urban Indian Health Programs and reducing funding to Indian Health Facilities by \$25 million. In addition, inadequate legal services and weakening education support continue to hinder Native American people from achieving self-sufficiency and upward mobility.

As a new Appropriations Committee member, I am committed to strengthening the funding sources for Native American programs, specifically those programs in the areas of healthcare, education, and the justice system. I have fought for the full funding for the Community Health Partnership of Santa Clara County's Healthy Women, Healthy Choices project, which aims to increase health status of medically underserved mid-life women by providing comprehensive health education and promoting adoption of healthier behaviors through community workshops and provider trainings. I have also fought to continue the funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Urban Indian Health Program, which works to eradicate the mental health, substance abuse, and chronic disease disparities plaguing urban Indian people. These valuable programs provide the holistic and culturally sensitive care needed to effectively support this very vulnerable population.

In addition, I have cosponsored numerous health care bills developed specifically to address the needs of Native American people including the Indian Health Care Improvement Act Amendments of 2007. Introduced by Representative FRANK PALLONE, H.R. 1328 seeks to create comprehensive behavioral health, prevention, treatment, and aftercare services for Native American peoples. By passing policies such as these, Congress can help turn around the Native American health care crisis and improve the well-being of future generations.

Since joining the Appropriations committee, I have also argued for the continued funding of the O'Malley Education program. As a former educator, I know and understand the positive influence that a properly funded school system can have on the performance of its students. Authorized in 1934, the Johnson O'Malley Act was passed to ensure that the federal government supports the unique and specialized educational needs of Native American children. Providing funding for basic education-related items such as eyeglasses, school supplies, learning materials, and scholastic testing fees, the O'Malley Education program helps Native American children achieve academic success. The program provides critical supplemental funding not covered by any other Federal, State, or local agency. It is an essential component that is supporting the efforts of the educational school system and improving the educational attainment of Native American children.

Preservation of indigenous languages is another significant challenge impacting Native America and one that Congress can help support. According to the National Indian Education Association (NIEA), Native American languages are being lost at a rate so rapid that by the year 2050 only twenty indigenous languages will remain viable. Allowing the loss of these indigenous languages would not only be devastating to Native American people, but would be a true disservice to the world. For this reason, I have supported legislation such as H. Con. Res. 11, the English Plus Resolution, introduced by Representative JOE SERRANO, which calls on the Federal Government to support and assist Native American

groups working to preserve and prevent the extinction of their languages and cultures.

Legal services for Native American people also require continued Congressional attention. To ensure the sustainability of Indian legal services, we must continue to provide the tribal justice system with adequate federal financial support. For this reason, I have proposed appropriations funding for the California Indian Legal Services' Tribal Court Development Project (TCD). Funding the TCD project would strengthen existing tribal courts in California and foster the development of new tribal courts. TCD would improve capacity and resource-building, increase State-wide institution-building and information-sharing, and enhance legal services offered by the California tribal justice system. I have also urged the Appropriations Committee to fund the National Congress of American Indians and the California Indian Legal Services' Alcohol and Substance Abuse Demonstration Projects, the Tribal Courts Assistance Program, and the Tribal Prison Construction Program. Together, these initiatives work to strengthen State and local law enforcement efforts and provide much needed funding directed at improving resources, services, and infrastructure available in the tribal justice system.

In addition to bringing these issues to light, I have also cosponsored H.J. Res. 3, introduced by Representative Jo Ann Davis, which calls on the Federal Government to recognize and apologize for the ill-conceived policies it has implemented against Native American peoples throughout our Nation's history, and H.R. 3585, introduced by Representative JOE BACA, which formally honors the achievements and contributions of Native American people, calls for the development of a model educational curriculum, which recognizes such achievements, and encourages the American people to celebrate National American Indian Heritage Day.

As we embark on the 2007 National American Indian Heritage Month, I am hopeful that my colleagues and I will have the opportunity to pass the proposed legislation and confirm Congress' commitment to support Native American peoples and uphold Native American cultures and languages.

HONORING JULIAN GIBSON-CORNELL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Julian Gibson-Cornell, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 75, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Julian has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Julian has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Julian Gibson-Cornell for

his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR AS OFFERED BY LINDA DICKENS OF GRAND BAY, AL

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, last week one of my constituents, Linda Dickens, submitted a letter to Mobile's Press-Register offering a heartfelt tribute to her father, P.H. Murray.

As we pause this week to salute the men and women who have served in America's Armed Forces and honor the courage and sacrifice of those who continue to serve today, I found her letter especially poignant.

Today, Madam Speaker, I rise to ask that this op-ed piece be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in its entirety, for I found Ms. Dickens' letter an appropriate way to say thank you to the men and women who have done so much to protect this nation:

SALUTE TO A SPECIAL VETERAN

Veterans Day will not be the same this year because my special World War II veteran will not be here with me to celebrate. He was my father, P.H. Murray, who passed away Sept. 30, one day after his 84th birthday.

He was a great American hero to our family. His American flag is still flying outside his home, as it did every day he lived. He went off to war as a boy at the age of 18 and came back a man. He brought back memories, good and bad, that would last a lifetime.

He was proud to have served under Gen. George Patton in the Battle of the Bulge.

He was quite a joker when he was young, and when he was awakened in the middle of the night to see his commanding officer, the first time he thought, "What have I done?" It was a good thing, because the officer had learned Daddy had been a burner at the shipyard before the war, and they needed men to help burn plows to put on the front of the tanks so they could go over the hedge rows, which made the tanks turn over and easy targets for Germans to shoot. This made him very proud that he had done something special for his country.

For years as a child I never understood how Daddy could squat on the floor for hours at a time without moving. It was because for 19 months he didn't see a chair or a bed.

He never talked to us much when we were little. If only I had known the nightmares my mom hid from us that he was having about the war. He had so many memories bottled up in him.

He was a great father and provider and was always there for us five kids. He taught us to work hard, prepare for the future and always value what the men of WWII had done for our great country. He was proud that he had helped with our freedom and that we were all able to go to college.

He was a very smart man, even though he didn't go to college because of his children. He was a quiet man until the last few years, when he opened up about the war. He began to tell us stories about the war.

Some were funny, and others you could tell took a toll on his heart. This is when I really came to realize what the war had done for us.

I had taken history courses about the war, but they were nothing like the personal stories Daddy told. He said we never learned the real history of the war in a history book. Many young people don't realize what veterans did to keep our country free.

Daddy lost his two childhood friends in the war. One was killed and the other so shell-shocked that he could never come home to live. I remember the trips to see "Mr. Jim" at the Veterans Home in Biloxi. Daddy never forgot about him, even though he felt sad that he was not able to come home to his family.

Daddy taught us love, how important family is and that it doesn't matter what you have, it is what you do with it. Never forget we are free, and never forget the men who fought and the ones who gave their lives so we could be free.

He was proud of his WWII hat, which he wore proudly each day. He was buried with it. It made him feel proud and honored when someone asked him where he served.

I give all the veterans of this great country a "five-star salute," as my father would say when you did something good. Daddy, I give you a "five-star salute" for all you did for me and our country. I will miss you this Veterans Day and all the other days of my life. Thanks for a job well done.

Linda Dickens, Grand Bay.

HONORING DR. J. EUGENE GRIGSBY

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. PASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. J. Eugene Grigsby, a talented and multi-faceted artist who has been instrumental in highlighting the importance of combining art with culture and history as a means of expression. As such, he is considered by many as "one of America's leading artistic minds and recognized internationally as an artistic voice for the African American community." It was in keeping with this distinction that he was recently honored by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation at its Celebration of Leadership for the Visual and Performing Arts.

From his early days as a young art teacher in 1946 at Phoenix's segregated Carver High School, Dr. Grigsby has concentrated on conveying to his students the importance of incorporating their personal being and heritage in their works—a message he continued to demonstrate as he rose to become Professor Emeritus of Art at Arizona State University. As an internationally respected artist himself, who has mastered a number of mediums including oils, acrylics and lithographs, his works are noted for their ability to capture the spirit and dignity of his African and African-American subjects in scenes depicting their daily life.

A pioneer in today's promotion of multi-cultural art, Dr. Grigsby led the way to contemporary art instruction that goes beyond work in the studio by including the study of history and how man has chosen to express himself in differing environments. It is within this context that his celebrated book, *Art and Ethnicity: Background for Teaching Youth in a Pluralistic Society*, has provided educators with valuable insights into art education and will continue to impact the study of art well into the future.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend, honor and thank Dr. Grigsby, one of the great

American artists, for his continued service and contributions to the world of art and academic communities.

SECOND CHANCE ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my full support for the Second Chance Act of 2007, a bill to reauthorize the grant program for reentry of ex-offenders into the community.

With the dramatic increase in criminal convictions involving illegal drugs since the 1980's, the Nation's prisons have become severely overcrowded. As a result, every day hundreds of men and women are released from prison into their communities for the difficult task of restarting their lives.

It is even more difficult for those who have been incarcerated for a lengthy amount of time, those with limited education, and those who lack basic job skills. These men and women need assistance transitioning back into the community. Some assistance is needed with locating housing, finding employment, getting drug treatment, and mentoring.

This bill would provide that assistance. It is crucial to provide that assistance because it will reduce recidivism, improve lives, and improve communities. At a time when communities all across our great country have been torn apart by crime and drugs, we need to do all we can to help Americans who need a second chance at life. Let's send a message to America that we care about those who need help getting on their feet.

I thank my colleague DANNY DAVIS for introducing this important bill. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOHN EDWARD GRENIER

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory. Mr. John Edward Grenier was a devoted family man and one of the most respected political strategists in modern Alabama politics.

Born in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1930, John Grenier attended Jesuit High School and lettered in track, baseball, and football. He received his undergraduate and law degrees from Tulane University. He entered the United States Marine Corps and rose to the rank of captain. He served with distinction in Korea as a pilot, flying over 100 patrols in squadron VMF 312, known as the Checkerboard Squadron.

After receiving an honorable discharge from the Marine Corps, John Grenier attended New York University and received an LL.M. degree in taxation. He worked on Wall Street for a brief time before moving to Birmingham, Alabama, to work with Southern Natural Gas